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THE MYSORE SEASON AND CROP REPORT.

1907-08.

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GENERAL NOTE.

The following is a brief summary of the more important variations in the figures:—

PART I—Agricultural Statistics.

1. There is an increase of 3,189 acres in the total area (column 2—Table A-1 area according to professional survey); due chiefly to the revision settlement operations in the Channagiri and Molakalmuru Taluks and to minor corrections made in the Akarband by the Survey Department.

2. The total area of the State is nearly 19 million acres of which no returns have been rendered for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions comprising alienated villages and Jahgirs. Out of the balance of about $17\frac{1}{2}$ million acres, nearly 2 millions are under Forest proper, *i. e.*, State Forest and Plantations, not including District Forests, against 1,933,611 acres in 1906-07. This increase is due to reservation of fresh areas under State Forests. It should be explained that though in the Explanatory Memorandum issued with Government Order No. 3473-8—R. 1100, dated 6th October 1897, under para 5 "Forest" means any land classed or administered as Forest and includes also District Forests, yet as the latter are not separately mapped, Amrut Mahal, Gomai and Kharab lands which under the Forest Regulation and Rules are treated as District Forests, are shown in the next column. The rights and privileges of raiyats in the latter relate mostly to grazing and dry fuel, while almost all other produce is collected by the Forest Department. Thus the area which should come under Forests in column 2, if properly classified, would be far in excess of the above total. The total extent of free grazing and hulbanni lands being about 4,855,000 acres and State Amrut Mahal Kavals about 427,000 acres as per area return furnished by districts, the aggregate total of lands really administered by the Forest Department would be about $7\frac{1}{2}$ million acres.

The area actually available for cultivation is about $8\frac{1}{2}$ million acres or about half the total area for which returns are furnished. The total occupied area amounts to about $7\frac{1}{2}$ million acres, of which 6 millions were cultivated during the year, an extent of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres forming assessed waste.

PART IV—Rainfall.

3. The rainfall during the year does not compare favourably with that in the previous year in the maidan districts of Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug but was better in the two malnad districts of Shimoga and Kadur, the average for the State being 39.01 inches as against 44.42 inches for the previous year and 36.79 inches, the average for 38 years from 1870 to 1908.

PART I.

4. The total net area cropped (Table A-2) during the year 1907-08 was 6,011,671 acres, exhibiting a decrease of about 18,800 acres as compared with that of the previous year.

The total area irrigated (col. 13), *viz.*, 927,438 acres, was also less than that of the previous year by 9,193 acres.

5. Areas under different crops.

Dealing only with the principal crops, there was an increase in the area under the following heads as shown against each of them:—

Ragi	94,154	acres.
Oil-seeds	11,350	"
Condiments and spices	15,136	"
Fibres	6,130	"
Sugar-cane	4,184	"

While there was decrease under the following heads:—

Rice	...	...	...	12,926	acres.
Gram	...	...	...	49,145	"
Other food grains including pulses	...	...	...	66,060	"
Orchards and garden produce	...	...	...	25,512	"
Miscellaneous food crops	...	...	...	20,487	"

TABLE C.

6. The incidence of Land Revenue (excluding cesses) per head of the population for the whole State, including wholly or partially revenue-free areas, was Rs. 1-13-2 during the year as against Rs. 1-12-9 in the previous year, while the incidence in the fully assessed area works out at Rs. 1-14-5 per head as against Rs. 1-13-10 in the previous year.

TABLE D.

7. The number of raiyatwari holdings decreased from 1,041,378 in 1906-07 to 1,030,594 in the year under review, and their gross area was 6,909,066 acres as against 6,845,525 acres in the previous year. The average area per holding was 6.70 acres with an average assessment of 8.93 rupees as against 6.57 acres and 8.75 rupees, respectively, in the previous year.

The number of estates under "wholly or partially revenue-free tenure" was 95,337 with an aggregate area of 1,788,329 acres as against 96,536 with 1,786,259 acres in the previous year.

TABLE E.

8. There were during the year, 1,318 transfers of land involving 7,250 acres, by order of Courts as against 1,363 involving 9,793 acres in the previous year. Transfers by private contract or gift, numbered 15,954 comprising 85,080 acres as against 14,163 with 75,399 acres in 1906-07.

TABLE G.

9. While all other returns are for the official year the return relating to coffee alone is for the calendar year. The year 1907 was a good one for coffee as the yield during the year, *viz.*, 13,581,220 lbs. (about 136 lbs. per acre) was more than double that (*viz.*, 5,964,544 lbs.) of the previous year, while the area under crop was less than that of the previous year by 1,313 acres.

TABLE H.

10. The area under cinchona is purely nominal, the extent cultivated during the year being the same as in the last year, *viz.*, 112 acres.

PART II—Estimated out-turn of certain selected crops.

11. There was a decrease of 94,000 khandies in the out-turn of paddy during the year which was due to decrease in the area under crop. For the State as a whole, the average out-turn was about the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 9.8 against 10 annas.

The area under paddy was greater than in the previous year in all the districts except Bangalore, Tumkur and Chitaldrug, where there was a decrease of about 6,000, 6,500 and 8,600 acres, respectively. But the out-turn was larger only in the districts of Mysore, Kadur and Shimoga. The crop must have fared very badly in the Bangalore District where the yield was so low as 118,298 khandies as against 252,386 khandies in the previous year.

12. Although the total area under ragi during the year rose by about 94,000 acres, there was a fall of about 708,000 khandies in the out-turn. The area under crop increased in all the districts except Kolar and Kadur, but the out-turn was poorer in all the districts except Hassan, Kadur and Shimoga. The crop in the Tumkur District fared very badly, the out-turn being about 50 per cent of the previous year in spite of an increase of about 41,000 acres in the area under crop. The out-turn for the whole State averaged at 7.4 annas against 9.1 in the previous year.

13. There was a decrease in the area under horse gram of about 13,800 acres, while there was an increase in out-turn of about 16,000 khandies. In the districts of Mysore and Kadur, there was an increase in out-turn notwithstanding decrease in area, while in the Chitaldrug District there was a decrease in out-turn in spite of an increase in area.

14. The area under cholam during the year was greater than in the previous year by about 5,000 acres, and there was an increase of 18,000 khandies in the out-turn. The Mysore District yielded a better crop, the out-turn being about 80,500 khandies more than in the previous year notwithstanding a slight decrease (1,400 acres) in the area under crop.

15. The total area under sugar-cane was 44,550 acres exhibiting an increase of 4,200 acres over that of the previous year, with an excess of about 107,800 maunds of jaggery in the out-turn.

PART III—Prices of some principal articles of food.

16. The prices of important food-grains, (*viz.*, rice, ragi, cholam and Bengal gram) were generally higher during the year under review as compared with the previous year except during the first two or three months.

Taking the annual average price of rice, 2nd sort, and ragi in 1886 to be 100, the prices that obtained in 1907-08 are represented by 163 and 220 respectively.

*Bangalore,
21st May 1909.*

A. RANGASWAMI IYENGAR,
Revenue Commissioner.